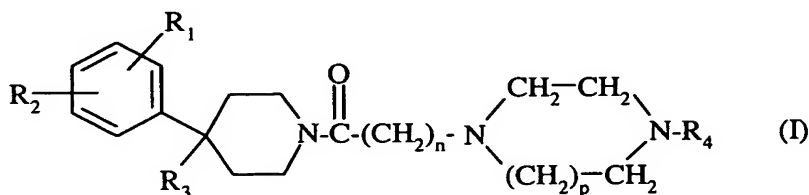


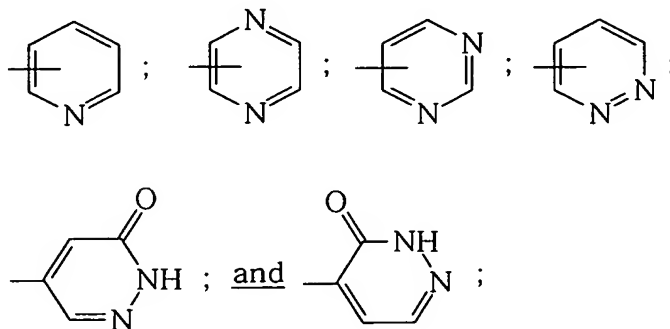
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of the~~ A compound of formula (I):



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- p is 1 or 2;
- R₁ represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C₁-C₄)alkyl; a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
- R₃ represents a hydrogen atom; a group -OR₅; a group -CH₂OR₅; a group -NR₆R₇; a group -NR₈COR₉; a group -NR₈CONR₁₀R₁₁; a group -CH₂NR₁₂R₁₃; a group -CH₂NR₈CONR₁₄R₁₅; a (C₁-C₄)alkoxycarbonyl; or a group -CONR₁₆R₁₇;
- or else R₃ constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;
- R₄ represents an aromatic group selected from:



- the said aromatic groups being unsubstituted or being mono- or disubstituted by a substituent selected independently from a halogen atom; a (C₁-C₄)alkyl; a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy; and a trifluoromethyl radical;
- R₅ represents a hydrogen atom ; a (C₁-C₄)alkyl; or a (C₁-C₄)alkylcarbonyl;
- R₆ and R₇ represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
- R₈ represents a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

- R₉ represents a (C₁-C₄)alkyl or a group -(CH₂)_m-NR₆R₇;
- m is 1, 2 or 3;
- R₁₀ and R₁₁ represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
- ~~R₁₂ and R₁₃ represent each independently~~ represents a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₅)alkyl;
- ~~R₁₃ may also represent~~ represents a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₅) alkyl, a group -(CH₂)_q-OH or a group -(CH₂)_q-S-CH₃;
- or else R₁₂ and R₁₃, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from aziridine, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine and morpholine;
- q is 2 or 3;
- R₁₄ and R₁₅ represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
- ~~R₁₆ and R₁₇ represent each independently~~ represents a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
- ~~R₁₇ may also represent~~ represents a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₅) alkyl, or a group -(CH₂)_q-NR₆R₇;
- or else R₁₆ and R₁₇, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine and piperazine which is unsubstituted or substituted in position 4 by a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
- ~~in the form of a base or an~~ acid addition salt ~~with an acid, or in the form of a~~ hydrate or solvate thereof.

2. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of formula (I)~~ A compound according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:
 - R₁ is in position 2, 3 or 4 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a chlorine atom, a methyl, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom; or else R₁ is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R₂ is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom;
 - ~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~
3. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of formula (I)~~ A compound according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:
 - R₃ represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl, a methoxy, an (acetyloxy)methyl, a hydroxymethyl, a dimethylamino, an acetylamino, an aminomethyl, a (methylamino)methyl, a (dimethylamino)methyl, a (diethylamino)methyl, an

(isopentylamino)methyl, an (N-methylisopentylamino)methyl, an aminocarbonyl, or an azetidin-1-ylcarbonyl; or else R₃ constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;

~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~

4. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of formula (I)~~ A compound according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

- R₄ represents a 2-pyridyl, a 6-methyl-2-pyridyl, a 3-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-pyridyl, a 4-pyridyl, a 3,5-dichloro-4-pyridyl, a 2-pyrazinyl, a 5-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-4-pyrimidinyl, a 5-pyrimidinyl, a 3-pyridazinyl, a 6-chloro-3-pyridazinyl, a 4-pyridazinyl, a 3(2H)-pyridazinone-5-yl or a 3(2H)-pyridazinone-4-yl;

~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~

5. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of formula (I)~~ A compound according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

- n is 1 or 2;

- p is 1 or 2;

- R₁ is in position 2, 3 or 4 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a chlorine atom, a methyl, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom; or else R₁ is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R₂ is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom;

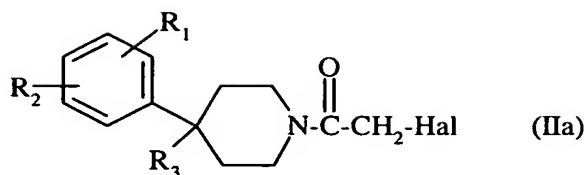
- R₃ represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl, a methoxy, an (acetyloxy)methyl, a hydroxymethyl, a dimethylamino, an acetylamino, an aminomethyl, a (methylamino)methyl, a (dimethylamino)methyl, a (diethylamino)methyl, an (isopropylamino)methyl, an (N-methylisopropylamino)methyl; an (isobutylamino)methyl; an (N-methylisobutylamino)methyl, an (isopentylamino)methyl, an (N-methylisopentylamino)methyl, an aminocarbonyl, or an azetidin-1-ylcarbonyl; or else R₃ constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;

- R₄ represents a 2-pyridyl, a 6-methyl-2-pyridyl, a 3-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-pyridyl, a 4-pyridyl, a 3,5-dichloro-4-pyridyl, a 2-pyrazinyl, a 5-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-4-pyrimidinyl, a 5-pyrimidinyl, a 3-pyridazinyl, a 6-chloro-3-pyridazinyl, a 4-pyridazinyl, a 3(2*H*)-pyridazinone-5-yl, ~~or a 3(2*H*)-pyridazinone-4-yl;~~
~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~

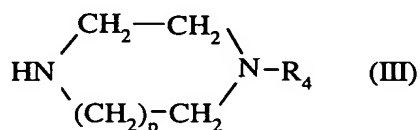
6. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of formula (I)~~ A compound according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

- n is 1;
 - p is 1;
 - R₁ is in position 2, 3 or 4 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a chlorine atom, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom; or else R₁ is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R₂ is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom;
 - R₃ represents a hydroxyl, a dimethylamino, an aminomethyl, a (methylamino)methyl, a (dimethylamino)methyl, a (diethylamino)methyl, an (isopropylamino)methyl, an (isobutylamino)methyl, an (isopentylamino)methyl, an (N-methylisopentylamino)methyl or an aminocarbonyl; or else R₃ constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring; and
 - R₄ represents a 2-pyrazinyl, a 4-pyrimidinyl, a 3(2*H*)-pyridazinone-5-yl or a 5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl;
~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~

7. (Currently amended): ~~Process for preparing compounds of formula (I)~~ A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which n = 1, ~~characterized in that:~~
 a1) wherein a compound of formula (IIA)

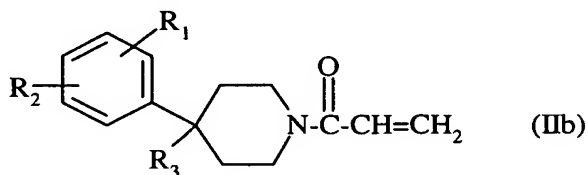


in which R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are as defined ~~for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1~~ and Hal represents a halogen atom, ~~preferably chlorine or bromine~~, with the proviso that when R_3 contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

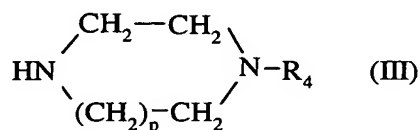


in which p and R_4 are as defined ~~for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1;~~
~~b1) and, after and~~ deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R_3
 where appropriate, ~~the compound of formula (I) is obtained.~~

8. (Currently amended): ~~Process for preparing compounds of formula (I)~~ A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which $n = 2$, ~~characterized in that:~~
 a2) wherein a compound of formula IIb



in which R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are as defined ~~for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1~~, with the proviso that when R_3 contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

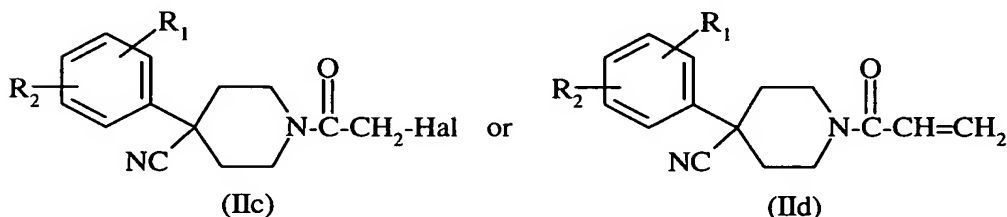


in which p and R_4 are as defined ~~for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1;~~

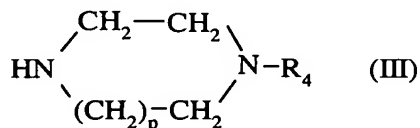
~~b2) and, after and~~ deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R_3 where appropriate, ~~the compound of formula (I) is obtained.~~

9. (Currently amended): ~~Process for preparing compounds of formula (I)~~ A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which R_3 represents a group $-CH_2NR_{12}R_{13}$ in which R_{12} and R_{13} each represent hydrogen, ~~characterized in that:~~

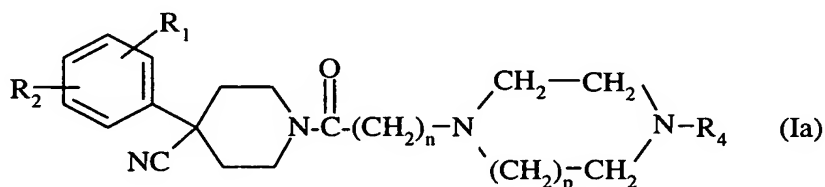
a3) wherein a compound of formula (IIc) or (IId)



in which R_1 and R_2 are as defined ~~for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1 and~~ Hal represents a halogen atom, ~~preferably chlorine or bromine,~~ is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

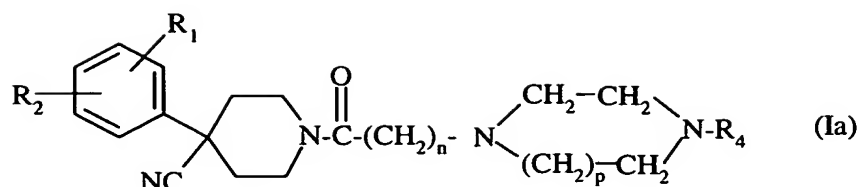


in which p and R_4 are as defined ~~for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1 to give~~ a compound of formula (Ia)



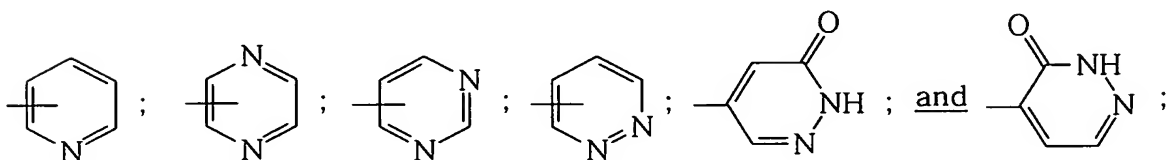
~~b3) and~~ the cyano group of the compound of formula (Ia) is reduced ~~to give a~~ compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1 in which $R_3 = CH_2NH_2$.

10. (Currently amended): ~~Compound~~ A compound of formula (Ia)



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- p is 1 or 2;
- R₁ represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C₁-C₄)alkyl; a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
- R₄ represents an aromatic group selected from:



the said aromatic groups being unsubstituted or mono- or disubstituted by a substituent selected independently from a halogen atom, a (C₁-C₄)alkyl, a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, a trifluoromethoxy radical;
~~in the form of a base or an acid addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a~~
hydrate or solvate thereof.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
- 1-[4-(aminomethyl)-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 - 5-[4-[2-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-oxoethyl]-1-piperazinyl]-3(2*H*)-pyridazinone;
 - 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 - 2-[4-(4-pyrimidinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-[4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridyl]-1-ethanone;
 - 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-[4-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridyl]-1-ethanone;

1-[2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]acetyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-
 4-piperidinecarboxamide;
 1-[4-(dimethylamino)-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-
 1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-
 1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-
 1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridyl]-
 2-[4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[(methylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[(diethylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[(isopropylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[(isobutylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[(isopentylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 1-[4-[(N-methylisopentylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-
 1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone; and
 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-
 1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
 or an acid addition salt, hydrate or solvate thereof.

15. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 3 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 4 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

19. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 5 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 6 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

21. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 14 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

22. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

23. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 2.

24. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 3.

25. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 4.

26. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 5.

27. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 6.

28. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 14.